Harold Weisberg
Rt. 8, Frederick, Md. 21701
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Dear Mr. Cunningham,

The current Nixonian sanctimony about dope suggests again the total absence of political research once considered vital in political life and campaigning, to show the record. From dope to Nazis, Nixon and his administration do have a record, some of which might well be cited. In a yesterday's letter to Mr. O'Brien about the crime at the Watergate I included information about the Nazis. Here the dope.

I can't properly provide the correspondence of others without their permission. The correspondence is that of Professor Stephen Duke of the Yale University Law School, a man of such dedication to his calling that he took time off and without income or compensation undertook the defense of a man apparently framed and apparently by the Nixon administration on a bum dope rap. Duke solved the crime. He then undertook to try to interest Will Wilson, Richard Kleindienst and John Mitchell in prosecuting the narcotics importers whose guilt he had already established for the government. Not one responded. Worse, they insisted that the innocent man be re-tried after Duke got the conviction reversed. Although this kind of "justice" by the Department of Nixon Justice ruined the life of the innocent man, he was acquitted. But the guilty of the Potroni family of organized crime seem also to have been acquitted in this administration of "justice". Part of this story, centered around the unique dedication of Duke, was published in Argosy for May, 1970.

Will Wilson then headed the Criminal Division.

Mention of him and thinking of his forced resignation because of involvement in apparent grafting reminds me of what if there really has not been real research you might want to bear in mind for the kind of last-minute dirtiness that has characterized so much of the recent right-wing Republican politicking. It can be a variation of the guilt-by-association technique ("20 years of treason"). From the moment Mitchell had the power he started a concerted effort to indict prominent Democrats for various kinds of crime, usually involving money improperly obtained by officials. Wilson got caught up in one of several in Texas. When it was necessary to getting the Democrats, deals were made with some really guilty, resulting in the guilty going free. I have some files on such things where those in who I had to have interest were involved.

A fair amount of the Nixon-Mitchell law-firm wheeling and dealing has been reported over the years in Jack Anderson columns.

Sincerely,

Harold Weisberg